



Background Check Information for Volunteers and Interns

All Volunteers and Intern at The Franklin Institute are required to complete background check documents and meet background clearance requirements every 3 years. The Franklin Institute covers all fees pertaining to background checks.

All volunteers and interns, regardless of their role, are required to complete a PA Criminal Record Check, a PA Child Abuse History Clearance and, if they live in the state of NJ, a NJ Criminal History Record Check.

In compliance with Act 153 (Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law), effective July 1, 2015, all volunteers and interns whose position involves direct contact with children must have the following background clearance requirements before they can begin:

1. PA Criminal Record Check,
2. PA Child Abuse History Clearance
3. Federal Criminal History Record report obtained by providing a full set of fingerprints to obtain an FBI Background Check

The third requirement, the FBI Background Check is waived where the volunteer has been a resident of PA for the last 10 years and affirms in writing that he or she has not been convicted of one of 20 disqualifying crimes, including homicide, assault, stalking, kidnapping, sexual offenses, prostitution or child endangerment, and similar crimes.

Please see the information below which explains the different scenarios for background checks:

1. Volunteers and Interns not working directly with children will complete all background check paperwork during their volunteer orientation.
2. Volunteers and Interns who will work directly with children must have all background clearance requirements before they can begin. Once a volunteer or intern has been offered a position, information on how to complete the necessary background checks will be sent. The volunteer/intern must follow all procedures ASAP to ensure that the necessary clearance requirements are received by their start date.

Please note that even if you have had background checks completed for your place of employment or another volunteer position, you will still be required to complete all background checks for The Franklin Institute.